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Circumstances Regarding the Despatch of Troops to North China

Army Press Section.

On the night of 7 July, 1937, while a part of the unit stationed at FENGTAI, belonging to our stationary troops in China was having night manoeuvres in the northern part of Marco Polo Bridge (about 6 miles south west of PEIPING), it was suddenly fired upon at about 11:40 p.m. by Chinese troops in Marco Polo Bridge. The unit, therefore, stopped the manoeuvres at once, and gathering its strength together, the unit kept watch over the Chinese and promptly reported the matter to the higher authorities.

Regarding the situation as being very serious, the PEIPING unit despatched Colonel MORIT., Mr. WANG Ling-chi, Chief of HENGPING Province, Mr. LING Keng-yu, belonging exclusively to the Diplomatic Commission of the North Part of HOBEI Province and others also went together with the Colonel. Prior to this, the commander of the FENGTAI unit had immediately made a strong protest against the Chinese troops in Marco Polo Bridge for their unjust acts, and requested that the Chinese troops be withdrawn from the area. While the negotiation was going on, however, the Chinese at a little

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past 4:00 a.m. of the 8th made a challenge against the Japanese troops then concentrating, by shooting with trench mortars and rifles from the vicinity of LUOCHANG-IAO and the heights near CHANGSHING-IAO on the west side of the LINGTUNG River. The Japanese troops were compelled to return the fire in self defence. They occupied CHANGSHING-IAO, and requested the Chinese troops in Marco Polo Bridge be disarmed.

In this battle, more than ten of our men were killed or wounded, while we are certain that more than twenty men were killed and no less than sixty were wounded on the Chinese side.

When it was 9:30 a.m. the both forces entered into a state of truce at the earnest appeal from the Chinese. Our side concentrated its strength, and watched the movements of the Chinese troops.

Every Palace-gate of PEI'ING was closed at 12:20 p.m. on 8th and communication into and out of the city was cut off. At 3 p.m. the city was placed under martial law, CHIAO Weng-kai (commander of Gendarmerie) being appointed commander of the unit enforcing the martial law. However, some of our infantry men stayed in the city to protect the /Japanese/ residents and the city was comparatively peaceful.

Arriving at the aera on the morning of 9th, Colonel MORIT went to Marco Polo Bridge to make negotiations, but the Diplomatic Commission insisted, through our PEI'ING agency, on restoring to both sides, the original state and would not consent. At 2 a.m. of the 9th, the Chinese promised to withdraw by 5:00 a.m.

their entire unit in Marco Polo Bridge to the right bank of the YUNGTING River. But the truth is that not only did the Chinese troops around Marco Polo Bridge not withdraw even at 6 a.m., but they were being increased in strength, and resorted to such violence as to fire now and then at the Japanese troops on the watch. The Japanese troops therefore, were compelled to fight back to suppress firing from the Chinese side.

As the /Japanese/ forces filed a strong protest against the Chinese for their non-fulfilment of the agreed term, the Chinese were compelled to send their brigade commander and his staff officer to Marco Polo Bridge at 7 a.m. on 9th. They were again requested to withdraw the Chinese unit. As a result, the Chinese troops, leaving only a small party behind, completed evacuation to the right coast of the YUNGTING River at 12:10 p.m. The small party left behind was to be replaced by the Public Peace Preservation Troops upon their arrival.

The Chinese side however, kept making war-preparations, by continually increasing its military strength on the west coast of YUNGTING River and by replenishing up ammunition and other munitions of war. At four o'clock in the afternoon on this day, the Army Chief of Staff left TIENTSIN for PEIPING for negotiation, accompanied by his staff officers.

After dawn of 10th, the Chinese troops on the opposite side of the YUNGTING River committed reckless acts as to fire now and then at our unit on watch in Marco Polo Bridge. Toward

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evening of the same day, the Chinese troops marching south from the YANENKLO area outrageously occupied LUNG'ANGHIAO in violation of the agreement made at 2 a.m. of the 9th. Then they began to attack the Japanese troops near Marco Polo Bridge. Whereupon Commander SUHARUCHI resolutely making a counter attack, gave a smashing blow, and occupied LUNG'ANGHIAO at about 9 p.m. In this battle our side lost six men, and ten were injured, slightly or seriously.

The army withdrew from LUNG-WANG-MIAO at dawn of the 11th, and concentrated its main forces near WU-LI-TIEN, about two kilometers north-east of Marco Polo Bridge. At that time the Chinese unit numbering 700 or 800, equipped with cannons was at P.-Pao-SHAN and its southern area. At the same time, they increased the strength at CHANG-SIN-TIEN and Marco Polo Bridge, and built positions on the west bank of YUNG-TING-PO and at the end of CHANG-SIN-TIEN Heights. Although its numeral strength was not known exactly, it appeared to be reinforced gradually. Meanwhile the chief of the staff of our stationary troops strove to negotiate successfully with the leaders of the northern part of the HOPEI Province at PEIPING, but as he found no way to settle the problem because of their firm attitude, and the rupture of negotiation appeared to be unavoidable, he finally left PEIPING for the air-field on afternoon of the 11th.

However, the Chinese leaders, finding that our Government and people are strongly determined as a whole, suddenly changed their attitude. At 3:00 p.m. they met with our Negotiating Committee member, MATSUI, Chief of the Special Institutions, who had remained in PEIPING, and agreed to accept our demands to punish responsible persons to prevent recurrence of such incidents in the future, to withdraw the military forces from Marco Polo Bridge and LUNG-WANG-MIAO and replace with the Public Peace Preservation Troops for maintenance of peace and order and to restrain anti-Japanese various groups. The agreement was signed by CHIANG-TSU-CHUNG and CHIANG-IN-LUNG,

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representatives of the 29th Army, and handed to our committee.

Our army keeping non-aggregation policy now watching how the Chin. will carry out their promises, but the fact is that they are repeatedly committing such defiant actions as shooting at our garrison troops and breaking into the village of Marco Polo Bridge. Also the Chinese troops near P. P. O-SH. M. are still taking up their positions and their picket line seems to have advanced a little farther than before. More troops and munitions are being transported to the west side of YUNG-TING-HO by the PIN-H. N. Railroad in preparation for war. About 11:00 a.m. on the 13th, when a small unit of our garrison troops riding on trucks was passing through M. T. S. H. (about three kilometers south of PEI-PING), it was outrageously fired upon with machine-gun by Chinese troops (of 37th Division). Our unit inevitably returned the fire, repulsing the enemy, but some of our soldiers were wounded in this strife. The Chinese army, in the meantime, were constructing threefold positions between P. P. O-SH. M. and PIN-H. N. Railroad, each end of the position reaching HSI-PIEN-PEN and YAHEN-K. O. It is made stronger day by day. It seems that a part of WIN-FU-LIN's unit which had come up north from P. O-TING arrived at CH. NG-SIN-TIEN and both sides of YUNG-TING-HO, and a cavalry unit from the south came to the vicinity of LI. NG-HSI. NG (about 15 kilometers south-east of YU. N. - PING along PING-H. N. Railroad).

In the walled city of PEI-PING, there was an unforeseen

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intense anti-Japanese feeling among Chinese soldiers and officials, and two Japanese military policemen were arrested. Chinese soldiers frequently trespassed the homes of our people and molested our women and children. The general feeling of unrest reached its climax and the people successively evacuated for refuge from the West City to the East City or to TIENTSIN.

The above is mainly the state of affairs in the districts concerned. As for the NANKING Government, it has shown an extremely undisguised intention of using force against Japan. Among other things, immediately after the outbreak of the incident, the NANKING Government ordered the Air Forces to get prepared for mobilization and, by announcing that a force consisting of four divisions would be dispatched to the North, encouraged the KICHU authorities to put up a decisive resistance against Japan. The NANKING Government had also been engaged in propaganda campaign. It falsely accused Japan as being responsible for the Incident, announced and propagated abroad that the Japanese were preparing for territorial aggression by maneuvering -- an action which was nothing but an exercise of our treaty right -- and demanded the local authorities immediately send photographs showing persons killed and wounded and buildings destroyed by Japanese bombardment.

On the other hand, looking into the NANKING Government's policies it was clear that, the Government, which facially making efforts for a break in the diplomatic deadlock and for promotion

Sino-Japanese cooperation, was desperately acting to the contrary in the back-ground of the Government, taking advantage of the lately developed Sino-Soviet approaching trend and the advanced preparations for a war against Japan, stirred up, more violently than ever, the anti-Japanese feelings among its officials and people. It quoted and falsely exaggerates arguments arising out of our internal problems and held that Japan could never take a decisive attitude against China due to the diversities of her own public opinions.

As a result, the Chinese people in general were now hallucinated to take Japan as being easy to deal with. The situation has been such that the frequent murder cases of Japanese national have occurred since August last year. The Central Government again was making persistent effort to provoke ill-feelings against Japan and Manchukuo by appealing to the middle ranking officers of the KICHU Army which was in charge of maintaining peace and order in North China, as well as the university students and others. Thus the anti-Japanese movements, which became more active, now invested with contemptuous and war like nature. All in all, there was no longer any room for doubt that the present incident had been caused by the combined anti-Japanese activities of the Chinese Government and its people.

Since the outbreak of the incident, the Imperial Government holding fast to its non-aggressive policy has made strenuous efforts for bringing the matters to a local settlement. However, in the face of the above-mentioned China's attitude totally

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lacking in sincerity, and also in view of the situation in which the safety of lives and properties of Japanese nationals have been extremely endangered, the Japanese Government deemed it absolutely necessary to take measures to cope with the situation and also to get a positive guarantee against future unlawful, contemptuous, and anti-Japanese activities, trusting that this was the only justifiable way for maintaining peace and order in the P.R.C. Thus the Cabinet decided on the 11th to despatch the troops to North China. Premier KONOYE immediately went to N.Y.M. to report the matter to the Emperor for his approval. However, as the maintenance of peace in the Orient was the Empire's sincere desire, it was a matter of course that the Empire would never give up efforts for peaceful negotiation to prevent any aggravation of the situation hoping that the Chinese would promptly dispel the phantom of pro-Communism and antagonism against Japan and Manchoukuo, for bringing about an amicable settlement of the situation.

This point as well as the measures taken by the Japanese Government for the perfect protection of the Foreign interests in China was made clear to the Government's announcement of the eleventh.

Further, on the 15th July it was publicly announced by the War Ministry that in view of the present situation in North China, it was decided that our unit of troops would be despatched there from Japan.

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Certificate of Source and Authenticity

I, HAYASHI, Kaoru, who occupy the post of Chief of the Document Section of the Foreign Ministry, hereby certify that the document hereto attached, written in Japanese, consisting of 7 pages and entitled "Circumstance Regarding the Dispatch Troops to North China," contained in Number 40 of the SHŪŌ, is an exact and true copy of an excerpt from an official document in the custody of Japanese Government (the Foreign Ministry.)

Certified at Tokyo.

On this 27th day of February, 1947

HAYASHI, Kaoru (seal)

I hereby certify that the above signature and seal were affixed hereto in the presence of the Witness.

At the same place, on this same date.

Witness: SAŌ, Takegorō (seal)

/ c

昭和十二年七月二十一日發行

週報第四十號所載

北支兵に至る経緯

華軍省新聞班

昭和十二年七月七日夜我が支那山屯軍に属する豐臺陸屯部隊の一部が蘆溝橋（北平西門約三里）の北方地區で夜間演習實施中、午後十一時四十分頃蘆溝橋の支那兵から突如數十發の射撃を受けたので、同部隊は直ちに演習を中止して部隊を集結すると共に之を監視し此の旨上司に急報した。

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そこで北平部隊では事態を重視し、森田中佐を派遣し、宛平縣長王冷齋及冀察外交委員會專員林耕雨氏等も亦同中佐と同行した。然るにこれより先豐臺部隊は直ちに蘆溝橋の支那兵に對し其の不法を詰詰し、且同所の支那兵の撤退を要求したが、其の交渉中八日午前四時頃、雍和宮附近及永定河兩側の長辛店附近の高地から集結中の我軍に對し、迫撃砲及小銃射撃を以て挑戦し來つたので、我軍も已むを得ず自衛上之に應酬して雍和宮を占領し、蘆溝橋の支那軍に對し、武裝解除を要求した。

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本戦闘に於て、我軍は死傷十數名を生じたが、支那側の損害は死者二

十數名、負傷者少くも六十名を下らぬことは確實である。

午前九時三十分に至り、支那側の停戦懇願により兩軍一先づ停戦状態に入り我方兵隊を集結しつつ支那軍の行動を監視した。

北平の各機關は八日午後零時二十分閉鎖して内外の交通を遮断し、午後八時に停戦協定を施行し、邵文凱（憲兵司令）が戒嚴司令に任ぜられたが、市内には我が歩兵の一部が留つて居留民保護に任じ比較的平靜であつた。

森田中佐は八日朝現地に到着して盧溝橋に赴き交渉したが、外交委員

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會から我が北平機關を通して兩軍の原狀復歸を主張して應じなかつた。ところが九日午前二時に至り支那側は遂に午前五時を期して盧溝橋に在る部隊を全部永定河右岸に撤退することを約したが、事實盧溝橋附近の支那軍は午前六時に至るも尙撤退せざるのみならず逐次其の兵力を増加し、監視中の我軍に對し時々射撃を行ふの暴舉に出たので、我軍は已むを得ず之に應戦して支那側の射撃を沈黙せしめた。

軍は支那側の協定不履行に對し嚴重なる抗議を行つたので、支那側は已むを得ず九日午前七時旅長及參謀を蘆溝橋に派遣し、支那部隊の撤退を更に督促せしむる所あり、其の結果午後零時十分同地の支那兵は一小隊を残し永定河右岸に撤退を完了し、配置した一小隊は保安隊到着後交代せしむることとした。

然るに支那側は永定河兩岸に續々兵力を増加し、彈藥其の他の軍需品を補充する等、著々戰備を整へつゝある状況であつた。此の日午後四時軍參謀長は蔣總司令に交渉の爲天津發北平に向つた。

十日拂曉以來永定河對岸の支那兵は、時々蘆溝橋附近の我が監視部隊に對暴を加ふる等の不法行爲があつたが同夕刻迄、衙門口方面か南進せる支那兵は九日午前二時の協定を無視して不法にも龍王廟を占據し、引續き蘆溝橋附近の我軍を攻撃して來たので牟田口師隊長は敢然逆襲に轉じ、之に徹底的打撃を與へ午後九時頃龍王廟を占領した。本戦國に於て我方は戦死六名、重傷十名を生じた。

軍は十一日拂曉龍王廟を撤去し、主力は蘆溝橋來北方約二軒五里店附

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近に集結したが、當時砲を有する七、八日の支那軍は八寶山及其の南方地區にあり、且長辛店及盧溝橋には兵力を増加し永定河西岸及長辛店高地端には陣地を設備し、其の兵力詳ではないが逐次増加の模様であつた。

一方駐屯軍參謀長は北平に於て冀察主顧部と衝突之勢めだが、先方の態度強硬であつて打開の途なく交渉決裂の外無い形勢に陥つたので、十一日午遂に離平して飛行場に向つた。

然るに冀察側は我が朝鮮一致強硬なる決意あるを看取するや急遽態度を變し、當時現つてゐた交渉委員松井中將機關長に對し、午後八時、支那側は責任者を派分し、將來再び斯の如き事件の起るを防止する事、盧溝橋及龍王廟から兵力を撤去し「保安隊を以て治安維持に充てる事及抗日各種團體取締を爲す事等に關する我方の提議を容れ、二十九軍代表たる張自忠、張兆榮の名を以て署名の上我方に手交した。

そこで我軍は事件不擴大の方針を待じて支那側の實行を監視中であるが、其の後に於ても我が警戒部隊に對する射擊並盧溝橋部落に對する侵入其の他の挑戰的行爲の發展を見つゝ、ある次第で、又八寶山附近の支那

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軍は依然陣地を占領し、其の警戒部隊は從來より相々前進した模様で、
水定河沿岸には更に平漢鐵道により軍隊及軍需品を搬送し著々攻勢を益
へて居る。

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然るに十三日至今と、午前十一時頃、我が陸軍に属する一小部隊が居村（北平市方約三里）を自動車で通過中、支隊兵（第三十七師に属するもの）が不法にも一銃を以て我方に射撃を加へたので、已むなく直ちに還撃して退却したが、此のために我方は死者数名を出した。

一方支隊に於ては、八寶山から平漢線に戻る間に三つの陣地を襲撃中であつて、其の陣地は西門より衙門口に戻り、逐次陣地にたりつゝある。又、長辛店及永定河兩岸には保安から北上した高麗兵の一部が到着したものゝ如く、又直隸（平漢線上宛平市南方約十五里）にも、南方から陸兵部隊が到着したと報告である。

北平城内に於ては支隊司令部及官憲の反日感情表れに熾烈であつて我が兵二名が検束せられ、其の他邦人に對し支隊兵隊の家宅侵入、婦女子への迫害等相次ぎ、人心は二度に悪化し、西門から東門に或は天津に避難するものが出する有様である。

以上如主として現狀方面に於ける狀況であるが、中央政府は事件發生直後進行部隊に對し勅令準備を下し、且四ヶ師を北上せしむるから臨平坑

日せよと我々を激勵する等武力抗日の意向極めて露骨なるのみならず、
該等發生の責任日帝にありと誣言し、或は自衛に全く當然の權利たる我
が演習を以て領土侵犯の準備行動なりと公言し、之を冬口に宣値し、或は
日本軍の砲撃により生じた死傷者並に被弾物の荷役を至急提出すべきを理
由に要求する等、宣値うに大意の言である。

つて、一政府の對日方針を觀察するに、其口を打撃、根柢促進に努
めつゝある如く然るも、表面では却て之が實現阻止に狂奔し、特に最近「ソ
連近海の同洲地は抗日作爲準備の進展に伴ひ各々富民の抗日氣氣を熾烈な
らしめ或は露國領内の露國軍中、多少の騒動がある」と一々取り上げて針小
聲大に宣傳し、或は日本の軍艦が不統一であり到底勝手たる態度に出で
ずと見くばり、延いては支那國民一般が日本與見しとの關係を惡しつゝ
る有様であつて、昨年八月以來露人殺害事件相次いで頻る情勢であ
つて、中東亞細亞に北支に於て治安の任に當つてある露軍部隊の中堅幹部
や大學生等に働きかけて熱心に抗日反露意識を興り、反日は抗日となり、
今や露日地境的と化しつゝある有様で、今次露軍は實に支那領の上一致

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せる日行所である事は、早急の処置のない所である。

露國政府は事變發生以來、不利大の方針を堅持し、局地的解決に意を盡かし來つかののであるが、支那側の態度前述の如く何等諒解のむべきものなく、在支邦人の生命財産の安全は恒度に脅かされつゝある状態を前に鑑み、之を緩和するに勿論支那側の不協行爲及抗日行動に對する時來の確信なる根拠を得ることには絕對に必要であり、これが直捷の平和を維持する所以なりと信じ、十一月北支派兵に對する同意一決し、近衛首相は直ちに張山に赴き上奏御裁可を仰ぐに至つた。然し乍ら真平和の維持に對するの切に願ふ所であるから、今後共居間不利大の無平和的折衝の望を捨てず、支那側が其の容共抗日反露の迷夢より醒め、眞實に露國が同澤たる解決を見入るに至るべきを切望しつゝあるは、一よりであつて、列國公衆の諒解伊達に關し露國諒解を問する次第であり、此の件に關しては十一日政府の聲明により明瞭である。

尙七月十五日、北支の現勢に對み内閣より一紙の要略を添達することに決せられ、此の旨略要省から公表した。

文書ノ出所竝ニ成立ニ關スル證明書

自分、林 啓ハ外務省文藝課長ノ職ニ居ル者ナル處、茲ニ添付セラレタル日本語ニ依ツテ書カレ七頁ヨリ成ル北通報第四十號所載ト題スル書類ハ日本政府（外務省）ノ保管ニ係ル公文書ノ抜萃ノ正確ニシテ眞實ナル事シナルコトヲ證明ス

昭和二十二年二月二十七日

於東京

林

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右署名捺印ハ自分ノ面前ニ於テ爲サレタリ

同日於同所

立會人

佐藤武五郎